



Good day Worthy Knights,

In this part 93, the Beadle

Wikipedia

Beadle

A beadle, sometimes spelled "bedel", is an official of a church or synagogue who may usher, keep order, make reports, and assist in religious functions; or a minor official who carries out various civil, educational, or ceremonial duties on the manor.

The term has pre-Conquest origins in Old English, deriving from the Old English *bydel* ("herald, messenger from an authority, preacher"), itself deriving from *beodan* ("to proclaim", which has a modern descendant in the English verb *bid*). It is also known in Medieval Latin as *bedellus*.

In England, the word came to refer to a parish constable of the Anglican Church, one often charged with duties of charity.

In the Church of Scotland, the title is used for one who attends the minister during divine service as an assistant.

In education

In the medieval universities, beadles were students chosen by instructors to act as assistants: carrying books, taking attendance, and assisting in classroom management.

In some universities in England the post of *bedel* or *esquire bedell* still exists as a ceremonial role.

At the University of Oxford there are six bedels whose role is defined as being to "attend upon the Chancellor, Vice-Chancellor, the Proctors and other participating dignitaries on such occasions, and assist them and other University members to carry out ceremonial duties" and to "deputise for the University Verger as necessary".

At the University of Cambridge there are two esquire bedells who "have certain important responsibilities at congregations", including carrying the university's ceremonial maces, the senior esquire bedell also having "general responsibility for the correct formulation and wearing of academical dress".

Some universities in Scotland, including the University of St Andrews, the University of Glasgow and the University of Dundee, have a ceremonial *bedellus*, who may also be the head janitor and be responsible for the maintenance of the university buildings. The bedellus traditionally carries or leads the mace in procession and may also be responsible for hooding graduates.

At some Dutch universities, including the University of Amsterdam and Utrecht University the Office of the Beadle manages doctoral and other ceremonies.

Other uses

Outside of religious and educational institutions, the designation of "beadle" is most often held by officers of secular bodies of some antiquity.

Livery companies

This group are paid employees of the livery companies of the City. These beadles are usually assistants to the company's clerk, being responsible for attendance on the court and master of the company, originally to enforce its trade policy and uphold discipline (especially among the company's apprentices) but now to act as masters-of-ceremony at formal banquets and to accompany the master on civic occasions. The title "hall beadle" is sometimes used by the hall manager of a livery hall responsible for the company's treasure and the efficient running of the hall, especially if let on a commercial basis.



The Esquire Bedell of the University of Cambridge, carrying one of the university maces